HF Happenings

World Amateur Radio Day

World Amateur Radio Day, observed every year on 18 April, marks the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union in 1925. Radio amateurs worldwide will take to the airwaves to celebrate amateur radio's contribution to society. The IARU has provided a World Amateur Radio Day poster, in two sizes: 61 x 91 cm and a small (A4) flyer that can be downloaded from www.iaru.org under the 'operating' tab. Amateurs are encouraged to promote their activity on social media by using the hashtag #WARD2016.
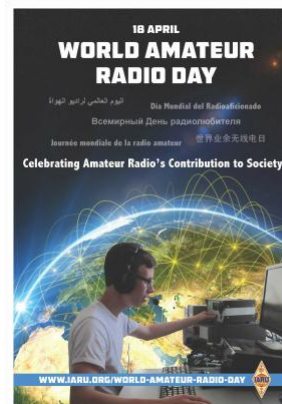
International Marconi Day

Organized by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, the International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24-hour amateur radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi (25 April 1874). It is not a contest, but an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make contacts with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques. This year's event will be held on 23 April, from 00.00 UTC to 23.59 UTC. Details, including information on the relevant Award Certificates and the listing of participating stations, can be found at http://gx4crc.com/.

Southeast Asia Net (SEANET) to be reactivated

The members of RAST, Thailand's national amateur radio society, will reactivate the Southeast Asia Net (SEANET) next week. Beginning on Monday 11 April, a Thai net control station will invite stations to check into SEANET from across the Southeast Asian region on 14,320 MHz from 12:00 UTC (19:00 local in Bangkok and Jakarta) onwards.

Subsequently, the net will be conducted twice a week, every Monday and Friday, when a Thai net control station will invite stations around the region to check in on a country-by-country basis.

From 18 to 21 November, the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) under the patronage of His Majesty the King will host the 2016 SEANET Convention in Pattaya, a popular beach resort on the Gulf of Thailand. RAST President Jakkree Hantongkom (Jack), HS1FVL, along with directors of the society believe that it is important to ensure that the net on 20 metres continues to be conducted regularly.

Amateur radio stations anywhere in the world are welcome to check into SEANET, whose main role is to be on standby to handle any medical or emergency traffic. In the past SEANET has helped sailors and crewmembers on yachts in distress while also serving as a guide to propagation conditions and being a meeting point for hams in the region where they can meet friends before QSYing away from the net frequency for a QSO.

SEANET began operating on 14,320 MHz in late 1963 and the first SEANET Convention was held in Penang in 1971. Since then the convention has been an annual event while the net had been manned by volunteer net control stations from around the region. However, the net ac-

tivity had declined and it no longer meets regularly and this initiative by RAST hopes to redress this by conducting the net at least twice a week.

It is still possible to register to attend the 44th SEANET Convention in Pattaya and full information can be found at the SEANET 2016 website www.seanet2016.com.

Any amateur radio station can check into the net and the net control operator begins by calling for check-ins from countries in Southeast Asia, followed by elsewhere in Asia and the Pacific, then in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North, Central and South America.

For more information about RAST and amateur radio in Thailand, please check out the English-language website while there is also a website in Thai.

Web Site of the Week
http://www.heywhatsthat.com/

When scoping out a potential field day, repeater, Hamnet, SOTA, or other location, you may want to "see what you can see" from that location. This website may be able to assist, by showing you the panorama view from a particular lat/long location, allowing for your height.

Word to the Wise

"Kiteoon" - a combination of kite and (typically) helium balloon with fins, it is a type of aerostat that if large enough can be used to lift a wire antenna. The balloon aspect provides lift, while the fin aspect provides lift in windy conditions to counter the tendency to be driven toward ground. Car dealers use them to attract attention; 160-metre contesters use them to attract Qs.

Operating Tip

Use DX Beacons to enhance your operating plans

"TV Bob," N6TV, submits: "Ever listen to the NCDXF Beacons? The Faros program by VE3NEA, www.dxatlas.com/faros/, can automatically listen to these beacons and record when they are heard. An excellent design ensures that even the weakest beacon signals will be detected, with QRM ignored. Here is a YouTube video of Faros in action, copying many of the 20 m beacons in sequence www.youtube.com/watch?v=07BxQGFrBlU. K2MO has posted an excellent video showing how to set up the software, which will work with virtually any transceiver."

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

April

2 - *RaDAR Challenge*
5 - *All schools open*
7 - *SARL 80 m QSO Party*
9 - *SARL Autumn QRP Contest*
10 - *SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC on 7 070*
18 - *World Amateur Radio Day*
22 - *Earth Day*
23 - *Pesach (1st day)*
24 - *ZS4 Sprint*
25 - *Closing date for May Radio ZS articles*
27 - *Freedom Day*
30 - *Pesach (8th Day)*

May

1 - *Worker's Day*
2 - *Public Holiday*
5 - *Ascension Day*
7 and 8 - *AWA Valve QSO Party*
8 - *Mother's Day; SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC on 7 070*
12 - *Radio Amateur Examination*
15 - *ZS3 Sprint*
20 to 22 - *Dayton Hamvention*
23 - *Closing date for June Radio ZS articles*
25 - *Africa Day*
29 - *SARL Digital Contest*

Botswana, A2. Nobby, G0VJG, Nick, G4FAL, Giles, M0TGV, Tony, G4DLD, and Edd, GM0WED, will be active as A25UK from the Tuli Block between 13 and 19 April. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via M0OXO, direct, eQSL or ClubLog's OQRS (direct or Bureau). For more details and updates, see http://www.prismembroidery.co.uk/dxexp/a25uk

Ethiopia, ET. The Ukrainian operators continue to be active as ET7L from the INSA Radio Club in Mekanisa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Activity will be limited due to their work duties, but they are expected to be active until 1 May. Their activity has been on nine bands and they have made 30 000 QSOs as of 4 April. They continue to pay attention to the Top band. Operators are members of UT7L Contest Club (Yarik, UW7LL, and Andy, UR4LRQ). Logs are being uploaded daily on Clublog's OQRS. Upload to LoTW will be after the end of the operation. QSL Manager is US0LW. The Web site is now up and running with updates and log search at http://et7l.dxer.com.ua

Algeria, 7X. The Algerian Amateur Radio Union is going to operate around the World Amateur Radio Day (18 April) with the special event call 7U7WARD between 17 and 19 April. QSL via 7X2VB.

QSL 9J2BO. "Due to the difficulty at present of contacting 9J2BO," Mike, G3TEV, reports, "I will only accept cards direct and will not accept bureau cards until further notice". As UK postal rates have increased, the basic rate of £1.05 for standard airmail letters is "enough for about 5 cards to Europe or a maximum of 2 cards for the rest of the world." QSL to MJ Mills, 3 Tylers Way, Chalford Hill, Stroud, GL6 8ND, United Kingdom.

African Islands
IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

St Helena, ZD7. Bill, G0VDE, will be active as ZD7VDE from St. Helena Island between 22 May and 6 June. Bill mentions that he is "planning to go to St. Helena on the first commercial flights, which is expected to be on 22 May.... (The only problem is that the new Airport is not yet certified - this is expected to be in mid-April. If this does not happen in time I will have to delay my visit)." Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB, with some digital modes (RTTY and PSK31) and maybe just a little CW. Bill states, "I am staying in self-catering accommodation a couple of miles from Jamestown, on a plateau above the town with a good take-off to the W, N and E. The radios I am planning to take are FT-991 and TS-2000, with a vertical antenna and a variety of wires, dipoles and fiberglass supports." QSL via ClubLog's OQRS. For more details and updates, see http://www.sthelenadx.com/index.php

Contest Calendar
This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 11 to 18 April 2016

NAQCC CW Sprint	Max power: 5 watts
00:30 - 02:30 UTC 13 April	Exchange: RST, state, province or country
Mode: CW	and NAQCC no or power
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m	Work stations: Once per band
Classes: (none)	

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 16 April 2016
Upload log at:
http://nagcc.info/sprintlog.html
Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA
Find rules at:
http://nagcc.info/sprint201604.html

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 13 April
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 15 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 13 April and 03:00 UTC-04:00 UTC 14 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op (QRP/Low/High)

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 16 April 2016
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 13 April
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RS and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 20 April 2016
Upload log at: http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 15 April
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 17 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 15 April
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 17 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Holyland DX Contest
21:00 UTC 15 April to 21:00 UTC 16 April
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op (CW/SSB/Digital/Mixed); Single Op QRP; Multi-Single; SWL
Max power: non-QRP: >10 watts; QRP: 10 watts
Exchange: 4X: RS(T) and area; non-4X: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO on 160 - 40 m; 1 point per QSO on 20 - 10 m
Multipliers: Each 4X area once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 May 2016
E-mail logs to: 4Z4KX@iarc.org
Upload log at:
http://www.iarc.org/iarc/#LogUpload
Mail logs to: Contest Manager 4Z4KX, Israel Amateur Radio Club, Box 17600, Tel Aviv 61176, Israel
Find rules at:
http://www.iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest

TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 16 April
Mode: PSK, RTTY, Hell, MFSK, MT63, Throb, ASCII, SSTV, Domino EX, ALE400, JT65, Packet
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: High; Low; Great; QRP; SWL

Max power: High: legal limit; Low: 100 W; Great: 20 W; QRP: 5 W
Exchange: Name and prefix
Work stations: Once per band
Multipliers: Each prefix once
Power mult: high = x 5, low = x 10, great = x 20, QRP = x 30
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSOs x total prefixes x power mult
Submit logs by: 14 May 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_score.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html

ES Open HF Championship
05:00 – 05:59 UTC, 06:00 – 06:59 UTC, 07:00 – 07:59 UTC and 08:00 – 08:59 UTC 16 April
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op Mixed – high, low or QRP; Single Op CW; Single Op SSB; Multi-Single; SWL
Max power: High: >100 W; Low: 100 W; QRP: 10 W
Exchange: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per contest period
QSO Points: 2 points per CW QSO; 1 point per SSB QSO
Multipliers: Each ES region prefixes (ES1 - ES0) once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 May 2016
E-mail logs to: esopen@erau.ee
Upload log at: ESOPEN.EU/UPLOAD
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.erau.ee/images/LL/es-open_rules.pdf

Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest
06:00 UTC 16 April to 05:59 UTC 17 April
Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Field Day Mixed QRP; Multi-Op Mixed

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: CW: 5 watts/SSB: 10 watts

Exchange: BY: RS(T) and 2-character province; non-BY: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each BY province once per band; Each DXCC country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 06:00 UTC 24 April 2016

E-mail logs to: mulandxc@gmail.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.mulandxc.org/331

CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest

12:00 UTC 16 April to 23:59 UTC 17 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band – low or high; Multi-Single

Max power: High: 1 500 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: All: RST and continent abbreviation; CWJF members: RST, continent and "M"

QRP: RST, continent and "Q"; YL: RST, continent and "Y"; Multi-Op, Clubs, Groups: RST, continent and "C"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO on 20 - 10 m with different country same continent; 4 points per QSO on 80 - 40 m with different country same continent; 3 points per QSO on 20 - 10 m with different continent; 6 points per QSO on 80 - 40 m with different continent; 3 points per QSO with maritime mobile; 10 points per QSO with CWJF member, YL or QRP station

Multipliers: Each SA prefix once per band; Each DXCC country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 17 May 2016

E-mail logs to: cwjf@cqmmdx.com

Mail logs to: CWJF Group, PO Box 410, Juiz de Fora - MG 36001-970, Brazil

Find rules at:
http://www.cqmmdx.com/rules/

Nebraska QSO Party

14:00 UTC 16 April to 02:00 UTC 17 April and 14:00 - 23:00 UTC 17 April

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF

Classes: NE Fixed; NE Mobile/Portable; Out of State

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NE: RS(T) and county; non-NE: RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode per NE county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW or digital QSO; Bonus: 50 points per QSO with NE0QP

Multipliers: NE Stations: Each NE county, state, province, DXCC country once

Non-NE: Each county once

Power: High: x 1, Low: x 2, QRP: x 4

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults x power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 15 May 2016

E-mail logs to: QCWAChapter25@aol.com

Mail logs to: Reynolds Davis, K0GND, 3901 South 42nd Street, Lincoln, NE 68506-4212, USA

Find rules at:
http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025-rules-ne-qso-party-2016.pdf

Michigan QSO Party

1600Z 16 April to 04:00 UTC 17 April

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Mobile Solo Op (LP only); Mobile Multi-Op (LP only); MI EOC

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: MI: Serial no and county; non-MI: Serial no and state, province or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: MI Stations: Each state, province, MI county and one DX once per mode; non-MI Stations: Each MI county once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 16 May 2016

Upload log at:

http://www.miqp.org/submitLogFileMiQP.html

Mail logs to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, USA

Find rules at: http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm

EA-QRP CW Contest

17:00 - 20:00 UTC (10 – 20 m) and 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 16 April (40 - 80 m) and 07:00 - 09:00 UTC (40 m) and 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 17 April (20 - 10 m)

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: A: Single Op QRPp; B: Single Op QRP

Max power: QRP: 5 watts; QRPp: 1 watt

Exchange: RST, 1-letter category and "M" (if EA-QRP member)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 points per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 4 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with category A station

Multipliers: Each EA-QRP member once per band; Each country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 17 May 2016

E-mail logs to: eaqrp_test@yahoo.es

Mail logs to: EAQRP Contests, Apartado 17, E-16080 Cuenca, Spain

Find rules at:

http://www.eaqrp.com/index.php/actividades/concurso?id=71

RSGB International SSB Sprint Contest

17:00 - 21:00 UTC 16 April

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: your call sign, other station's call sign, serial no and name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 23 April 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/sprint.shtml

Ontario QSO Party

18:00 UTC 16 April to 05:00 UTC 17 April and 12:00 UTC-18:00 UTC 17 April

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Fixed: Multi-Single; Fixed: Multi-Two; Fixed: Multi-Multi; Fixed: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Fixed: Single Op CW – low or high; Fixed: Single Op Phone – low or high; Rover/Mobile: Multi-Op; Rover/Mobile: Single Op

Max power: HP: >150 W; LP: 150 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: ON: RS(T) and county; non-ON: RST and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points CW QSO; Bonus: 300 points for each ON multiplier activated by a Rover/Mobile (at least 3 QSOs with 3 different stations); 10 points per QSO with VA3CCO, VE3ODX or VA3RAC

Multipliers: ON Stations: Each ON county, state, province and country once per band; non-ON Stations: each ON county once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and Bonus Points

Submit logs by: 17 May 2016

Upload log at:
http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/submitlog.htm
Mail logs to: Contest Club Ontario, 9 White Crest Court, St Catharines, ON L2N 6Y1, Canada
Find rules at:
http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm

North Dakota QSO Party
18:00 UTC 16 April to 18:00 UTC 17 April
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Fixed; Mobile; Out of State
Exchange: ND: RS(T) and County; non-ND: RS(T) and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: ND Stations: each state/province and ND county once; Non-ND Stations: each ND county once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 May 2016
E-mail logs to: w0nd@arrl.org
Mail logs to: W0ND, c/o Lynn Nelson, 6940 4th St. SW, Minot, ND 58701, USA
Find rules at: http://w0nd.com/ndqso16.pdf

Feld Hell Sprint
20:00 - 23:59 UTC 16 April
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 20 April 2016
Upload log at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/something-old-something-new-sprint

YU DX Contest
21:00 UTC 16 April to 05:00 UTC 17 April and 09:00 - 17:00 UTC 17 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Lower Bands - QRP, low or high; Upper Bands - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: legal limit; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 4 points per QSO with different continent
Multipliers: Each YU or YT prefix once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 2 May 2016
E-mail logs to: yudx@yu1srs.org.rs
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/2016/rules.html

WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes
12:00 - 14:00 UTC (RTTY), 14:00 – 1600 UTC (PSK), 18:00 - 20:00 UTC (RTTY) and 20:00 – 22:00 UTC 17 April (PSK)
Mode: RTTY, PSK31
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op RTTY; Single Op PSK31; SWL
Exchange: British Isles: RS, serial no and WAB square; Other: RS, serial no and country
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 8 May 2016
E-mail logs to: g3xkt@worked-all-britain.org.uk
Mail logs to: Tony Beardsley, G3XKT, 14 York Avenue, Sandiacre, Nottingham NG10 5HB, United Kingdom
Find rules at:
http://wab.intermip.net/Contests.php

ARRL Rookie SSB Roundup
18:00 - 23:59 UTC 17 April
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single Op Rookie; Multi-Op Rookie;
Non-Rookies
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name, 2-digit year first licensed and state, province, XE area or DX
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-rookie; 2 points per QSO with rookie
Multipliers: Each US state and DC once; Each VE province once; Each XE call area once; One DX once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 20 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.b4h.net/arrlrr/rr_scoresubmission.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 18 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/

Next Week's Contests

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 April
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 20 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 21 April
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 21 April
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 22 April
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 April
10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital, 00:01 UTC 23 April to 23:59 UTC 24 April
SP DX RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 23 April to 12:00 UTC 24 April
Helvetia Contest, 13:00 UTC 23 April to 12:59 UTC 24 April
BARTG Sprint 75, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 24 April

VHF Happenings

A VHF Success Story from ZS4A

Rickus de Lange, ZS4A, at Bethlehem, only joined the Gauteng VHF group in May last year. He was using a skeleton slot antenna about 2 metres high when Carl, ZS6CBQ, worked him at S3 to 4 in Krugersdorp 236 km away, but others in the Gauteng area could not hear him. A month later, he successfully worked Dick, ZS6BUN, and Koos, ZS6BFD, on 144 MHz JT65b. He improved his antenna system and height and in January 2016, he was logged at S9+20 dB by ZS6CBQ on

144,300 MHz SSB and could work everyone in the Gauteng area. Rickus also participated in the PEARS National VHF and UHF Contest in January and won the Divisional 4 category scoring 46 344 points. He then started on his EME tower, rotator system and two 10-element OWL Yagi antennas and got them all finished about two weeks ago and on 25 March 2016, with only 160 Watts, he worked his first EME station, Franko, I2AK, on 144 MHz JT65b. Congratulations Rickus on a very fine effort.

ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization Committee Calls for Comments on Proposed UHF and Up Event

The ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization (VCR) Committee has drafted rules for a proposed new UHF and Up Contest and now is seeking input from the contesting community. The invitation follows the Committee's review of "considerable input from the amateur community." http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20-%20General/UHF_and_Above_Contest_Proposed_Version_4_4b.pdf

"In proposing the new rules, the Committee sought to respond to some of the most frequently received comments and to provide a 'test bed' for changes that might be considered for other non-HF contests in the future," ARRL Central Division Vice Director and VCR Chair Kermit Carlson, W9XA, explained. "At this time, everything is a proposal - open for comment, and definitely in flux."

Carlson said several common themes stood out among the comments and suggestions the Committee has already received. These included:

- Use distance-based scoring rather than a geographic multiplier system.
- The August timing is too close to other VHF+ contests, and/or it is too hot for roving.
- More incentive is needed to invest time and effort in making higher-band contacts.
- Existing rover rules are too complicated and too restrictive.
- Current VHF+ contests have too many entry categories.
- Scoring potential varies widely from one geographic region to another.

The draft contest proposal uses distance scoring, with point multipliers for contacts made on higher bands. To encourage roving, it simplifies rover rules to include those who do not travel great distances, and mobile stations. It includes just three entry categories and features regional, rather than national, competition. It adds team competition for small groups of operators who may not be part of a contest club.

The event would be held in the spring, between the January and June VHF contests. Nothing is final yet - not even the name of the contest, Carlson stressed. The Committee would like to hear from veteran and prospective VHF+ contest participants before it moves ahead with any additional changes. Submit comments by e-mail by 15 June.

The Committee also encourages more local outreach - articles, announcements, seminars and mentoring - to draw new participants into this and all radio sporting activities. Expanding the pool of potential contacts will make these contests more enjoyable for everyone, and Carlson said he hopes that commenters will share their outreach ideas with the Committee too.

First-Ever D-STAR Satellite to Launch

The first-ever satellite to carry a D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) Amateur Radio payload into space is expected to launch on 22 April from Guiana. The OUF-TI-1 (Orbital Utility For Telecommunication Innovations) CubeSat is one of three CubeSats developed by student teams under the European Space Agency (ESA) Education Office "Fly Your Satellite!" programme, which is aimed at training the next generation of aerospace professionals. https://ukamsat.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/202_jun_2013.pdf

http://www.esa.int/Education/CubeSats_-_Fly_Your_Satellite/Launch_campaign_started_CubeSats_arrived_at_Kourou_spaceport. The satellites arrived in South America on 25 March, followed by the student teams a few days later.
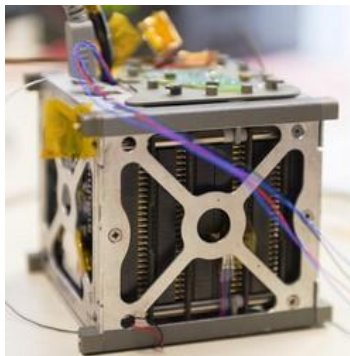

On 30 March the students pulled the "Remove Before Flight" pins and successfully verified that their CubeSats were ready for launch before replacing the access ports on the P-POD, which will secure the CubeSats prior to and during launch and then will release them into orbit. The next time the students will have contact with their respective CubeSats will be through their spacecraft's communication link, after the CubeSats have been deployed into orbit. Once thermal-optical tape has been applied to the P-POD to shield the CubeSats from extreme thermal radiation during the launch phase, the P-POD will be integrated with the *Soyuz* launch vehicle.

Constructed by students at the University of Liege in Belgium (ULg), OUFTI-1 will be the first satellite to carry an Amateur Radio D-STAR transponder. Developed by the Japan Amateur Radio League, D-STAR enables the simultaneous transmission of voice and digital data as well as call sign-based roaming via the Internet.

"The OUFTI-1 D-STAR repeater will be available either as a direct communication repeater between two users, and as an extension of the ULg D-STAR repeater," explains the article "D-STAR digital amateur communications in space with OUFTI-1 CubeSat" by Jonathan Pisane, ON7JPD https://ukamsat.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/202_jun_2013.pdf; Amandine Denis, ON4EYA, and Jacques Verly, ON9CWD, all of ULg. The CubeSat's frequencies are 145,950 MHz (FSK AX.25), and D-STAR down, with an uplink at 435,045 MHz. OUFTI-1 will carry a CW beacon transmitting on 145,980 MHz.
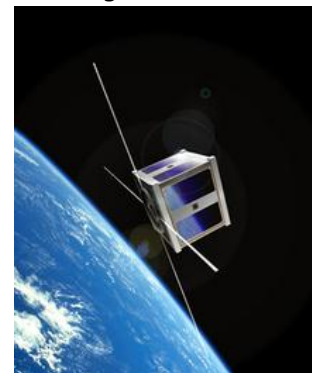
The other two CubeSats are from Italy and Denmark. The CubeSat e-st@r-II from the Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy, will demonstrate an attitude control system using measurements of Earth's magnetic field. It will transmit CW and 1.2 k AFSK on 437,485 MHz. AAUSAT4 from the University of Aalborg, Denmark, will operate an automated ocean vessel identification system. It will transmit on 437,425 MHz.

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World
and the Amateur Radio Newsletter

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp.